

Tennessee Charter School INCUBATOR

209 10th Avenue South, Suite 416
Nashville, TN 37203
Phone: (615) 401-7222

www.charterexcellence.org

Who We Are

As the first statewide charter school incubator in the country, the **Tennessee Charter School Incubator (TCSI)** was launched with one purpose: to close the education achievement gap in Tennessee by supporting the creation of high-quality charter schools in Memphis and Nashville.

Led by Executive Director Greg Thompson, TCSI will launch 20 new, high-performing college-preparatory charter schools in Nashville and Memphis over the next five years as well as provide support services to existing high-performing charters in these markets.

Why Charter Schools?

The education achievement gap in the United States – that is, the discrepancy between the academic achievement of low-income students and their more affluent peers, and the discrepancy between the academic achievement of white students and minority students – is one of the most critical issues facing our country. Despite decades of reforms in our public education system, a shameful gap still persists. Year after year, thousands of Tennessee students, mostly children from low-income families and children of color, are failed by our education system. These students are left with few promising opportunities as adults.

Charter Schools: A Proven Solution

Charter schools are one of the best tools we have to ensure that low-income and minority children achieve at the same level as their peers. Across the country, hundreds of charter schools in the most impoverished urban areas have seen stunning results by employing innovative techniques while also being held highly accountable for the success of their students.

In Memphis and Nashville, a small, well-established base of charter schools already exists. The quality of many of these schools is promising. TCSI believes that establishing high-quality charter schools will not only set a baseline for what should be demanded of all public schools in Tennessee, but also serve as a catalyst for additional aggressive reforms across the state.

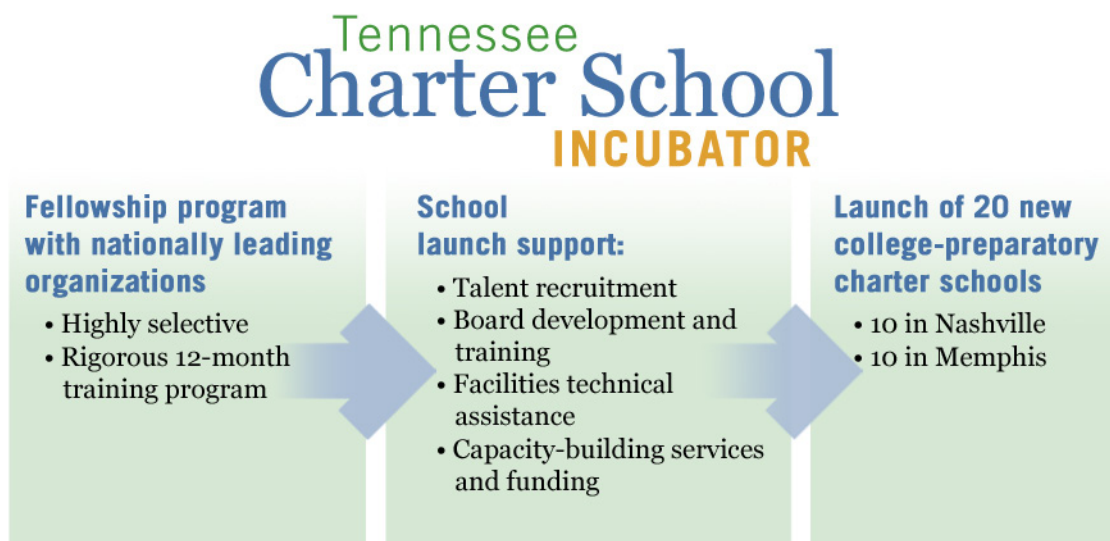
What We Do

The Tennessee Charter School Incubator focuses primarily on helping entrepreneurs and educators launch new charter schools, providing them with support services during their first several years of operation.



New School Incubation

A key part of the Incubator's work is the incubation of new, high-performing college-preparatory charter schools. We contract with two nationally leading fellowship training programs (**Building Excellent Schools** and **4.0 Schools**) to ensure our school leaders are prepared to create and operate some of the highest-achieving urban charter schools in the country.



The Tennessee Charter School Incubator works with these new school leaders to help manage critical local school launch activities including talent recruitment (instructional leaders and teachers), board development and training, facilities identification, and financing. TCSI provides capacity-building services and funding to these new schools in their early operating years (school reviews, funded site-visits to other high-performing charter schools, data-driven instruction coaching, and small to medium-sized operating grants).

School Support Services

To ensure our partner schools (fellowship-supported, and other new and existing high-quality charters) have the capacity to achieve exceptional academic results, we provide support in areas that we think are critical for success:

- Strong governance structure (with high-capacity board members)
- Talented school leaders and teachers
- Performance-driven culture with a relentless focus on data
- Access to facilities that are economical and functional

TCSI is proud to be part of the education reform movement in Tennessee. We believe that the combination of bold reforms, a significant positive change in the charter school law and a strong base of high-quality charters – along with the courageous political leadership that now exists in the state – makes Tennessee an incredibly attractive and vibrant destination for potential charter school leaders and teachers.

To learn more about the Incubator and how you can get involved, visit www.charterexcellence.org.